

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 305391

FOLLOWING REPEAT FREETOWN 3159 ACTION SECSTATE 30 DEC 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T FREETOWN 3159

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLELE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AL, SL, US, UR

SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONE POLICY ON ANGOLA

REF: STATE 302696 FREETOWN 3115

1. PRESIDENT STEVENS ONLY RETURNED FREETOWN FROM CHRISTMAS VACATION AFTERNOON DECEMBER 29. I PUSHED HARD TO SEE HIM MORNING OF DECEMBER 30, AS CABINET MEETING SCHEDULED LATER THAT DAY. I SUSPECTED THAT, IF ANY CHANGE WOULD DEVELOP IN GOSL POLICY, IT WOULD FIRST BE DISCUSSED AT CABINET MEETING.

2. RATHER THAN MAKE A GENERAL ISSUE OF ANGOLA, WHICH WE HAD DISCUSSED SO FREELY BEFORE, I USED OCCASION FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF BI-LATERAL RELATIONS WHICH WE JOINTLY AGREED HAD IMPROVED MEASURABLY DURING 1975. IN CONTEXT THIS DISCUSSION, I TOLD STEVENS I WOULD LIKE TO UP-DATE

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HIM ON ANGOLA DEVELOPMENTS. I THEN REPEATED INFORMATION

REFTEL AND FROM SECRETARY'S DECEMBER 23 PRESS CONFERENCE. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS HAD CONFIRMED TO HIM THE ACCURACY OF MY COMMENTS ESPECIALLY THE ETHNIC NATURE OF CONFLICT. WE COMPARED THE MESTICO ELITE OF THE MPLA WITH THE CREOLE DOMINANCE IN GOSL, WHICH DOMINANCE STEVENS IS KNOWN TO BE CRITICAL OF.

3. STEVENS ADDED THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAD SUGGESTED TO HIM THE ADVANTAGE OF GOSL'S CURRENT MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD POSITION WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO STEVENS' BEING CALLED UPON AS MEDIATOR. THIS OBVIOUSLY APPEALED TO STEVENS. HE STATED FIRMLY THAT GOSL POSITION WOULD NOT CHANGE PRIOR TO OAU HEADS-OF-STATE MEETING.

4. WHEN I ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT'S INTENTION TO ATTEND HEADS-OF-STATE MEETING HE WAS LESS THAN DEFINITE. HE MENTIONED THAT CONFLICT MAY EXIST BETWEEN THAT MEETING AND VISIT TO FREETOWN OF IRANIAN PRINCESS ASHRAF, A VISIT FROM WHICH GOSL HOPES TO BENEFIT. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SOURCES INDICATE JANUARY 13 - 16 AS DATE FOR ASHRAF VISIT.

5. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF CONTINUING PRESSURE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THE MOST RECENT OF WHICH WAS VISIT TO FREETOWN DECEMBER 20 BY GUINEAN FOREIGN MINISTER, I BELIEVE CURRENT GOSL NON-ALIGNED STANCE WILL CONTINUE. SAMUELS

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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